

The Spirit

special edition

SGA ELECTIONS

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St. Joseph's College

245 Clinton Avenue

What is the Student Government Association?

By Roseangela Fracchiolla

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there is a new election at St. Joe's to elect Student Government Association officers. We have all seen the election posters around school, the promising grins of the newest candidates. As the student body we hold the vote in our hands, though we're not always quite sure of who and what we are voting for.

The student government is an important and necessary entity within St. Joe's because it is a student run, student advocate organization, or as current SGA President Nina Zito deems it: "Student Government acts as a voice for the students on campus." There are currently four positions up for grabs on the Executive Board: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Secretary is the "oil" in the term "well oiled machine" that is Student Life. It is a position that requires a person to be organized, thorough, and most of all determined. This person is what makes everything at St. Joe's run as smoothly as possible. The Secretary is responsible for all correspondence of the Executive Board and the Student Senate. The clubs at St. Joe's must report to the Secretary with all documentation of club meetings and activity.

Everyone knows though, at the end of the day it's all about the money. The SGA Treasurer prepares the SGA budget, with the assistance of the President and the Secretary, and ultimately supervises all financial transactions of the SGA. Next time you are at a common hour event, or planning the next event for your club or team, remember the person behind the budget request who is working tirelessly to make sure every aspect of your group

has the opportunity to shine.

The Vice President position earns some cool points as one can say it is the official "wing man" position for the President. If there is an occasion when the President is somehow not fulfilling his or her duties the Vice-President seamlessly steps in and helps the student body. Most importantly, the Vice President acts as a liaison between the Executive Board and the club Presidents. Open communication with the student body is one of the most important tasks of our student elected officials, and the Vice President holds the most prominent responsibility when dealing with all of the clubs and organizations.

The President is the official representative of the Student Body. This person has the power to call meetings with the Student Senate and the rest of the cabinet or executive board. The most important word that should be associated with the role of SGA President is "representative." The power to take the needs and wants of the student body and turns them into actions seems daunting and is exactly the reason why it takes a special kind of person to fill a position such as President.

The most important aspect of SGA is its purpose to make all students feel welcome and feel as though they have a forum to speak their minds. Ms. Zito sums it up beautifully: "If people are feeling hesitant to come into Student Life and interact on a personal level, the students should know that everyone [here] is more than welcome to come in and seek guidance, or even just to talk about current issues at St. Joe's." At the end of the day the students elected to the new SGA E-board should be ones that will be there for their fellow students to understand and most importantly-- to listen.



Photo Credit: Lisa Murphy

The Current SGA: Sean Dorso, Kristen McMaster, Nina Zito, Catherine Muldoon, and Justin Burke

The State of the Campus Activity Board

By Diana Kessel

No matter how many credits you take or how frequently you are involved with campus life, you have encountered an activity put on by the Campus Activities Board, or CAB. Located in the Student Life office, CAB is made up of five members: Program Director Crystal Tejada, Publicity Coordinator Teresa Bosque, Special Events Coordinator Lizzy Fiorella, On-Campus Events Coordinator Jessy Danbourneung, and Off Campus Events Coordinator Ray Morales head the student group. The Associate Director of Student Activities and Co-Curricular Programs, Jaime Vacca-Hoefner, leads the students.

The members of CAB are set up in offices close to the SGA members for a reason. Junior Lizzy Fiorella said the partnership between the two organizations is necessary. "SGA has been a big help. The relationship between the two is great and we always have the support of each other in planning events for the best interest of the school and student body." Both Lizzy and Jaime Vacca-Hoefner agreed that mid February's "Week of Love" was one of the most successful events of the year. Ms. Vacca-Hoefner said, "The 'Week of Love' embodied everything CAB represents. We had the fun movie night, the educational

speaker, and the off-campus trip to the Swan Lake ballet." She continued: "CAB isn't just about the off campus trips to Broadway shows and sporting events, though they are always fun and successful. Our purpose is to provide entertainment and events on and off campus for education and entertainment." With 9 years of experience overseeing CAB as well as being a former Program Director herself, Jaime definitely knows this job better than anyone.

CAB may have the 5 members with specific jobs, but planning events is a collaborative effort. Ms. Vacca-Hoefner mentioned the evolution of CAB over the past decade. "SGA and CAB used to work very closely together, but now each has separate roles and different responsibilities. We plan the big events in the fall semester, but then let the clubs take over in spring, which lets the students gain leadership roles." Last year's program director Justin Burke offered his own opinion, "Crystal Tejada has been a huge part in why CAB is so successful. She pushes to have bigger and better events which makes the other members more dedicated and want to work together."

Upcoming spring CAB events to look forward to include a trip to the Broadway musical Sister Act, a visit from an improv comedy group at Common Hour, and the end of the year carnival. To become a part of CAB, check your email and look for signs about applications to be available in the weeks after the SGA elections.



The current CAB: Crystal Tejada, Teresa Bosque, Elizabeth Fiorella, and Raymond Morales (not pictured: Jessy Dangboonrueng).



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"What's wrong with the SGA?" asks Robert Jurman, Page 4

Jessy Dangboonrueng

Candidate for SGA Vice-President

By Robert Jurman

She's popular all over campus and is currently the CAB On-Campus events coordinator as well as the LGBTQ and Allies Club President, and she wants to be your next SGA Vice President. Jessy Dangboonrueng is a sophomore biology major who is no stranger to responsibility. As a freshman she was elected to the SGA as a representative and she rose up to gain even more responsibility in the CAB and LGBTQ and Allies Club.

Certainly all of these achievements qualify her for a position of authority, but when asked what made her more qualified to be Vice President than her fellow candidates she answered, "I believe that

my outgoing personality, interpersonal skills, multicultural awareness as well as my strong ability to take initiative upon new ideas is what makes me unique." If elected she looks forward to working with the next SGA President to bring about "innovative ideas" and solve any problems that arise.

She promises to be a "powerful voice" for the students here at SJC, and assures the student body that as issues arise she will keep them up to date with solutions she would be presenting. Certainly with her wide range of abilities ranging from a social and interpersonal level of skills, along with her resolve, passion, and experience, she will surely not waiver and be

most fit to effectively discharge the office of SGA Vice President.

To her, being the Vice President would "be a great experience for me...it will encourage me to overcome new challenges in life and build upon skills such as leadership and more that I can apply to my future career paths and goals." Her utmost goal is to bring resolutions to the table for the "greater benefit of the entire SJC Community." One thing is certain, there is no stopping Jessy when she is determined on a goal and she'll bring other people along for the ride as she strives to serve the students as the SGA Vice President.

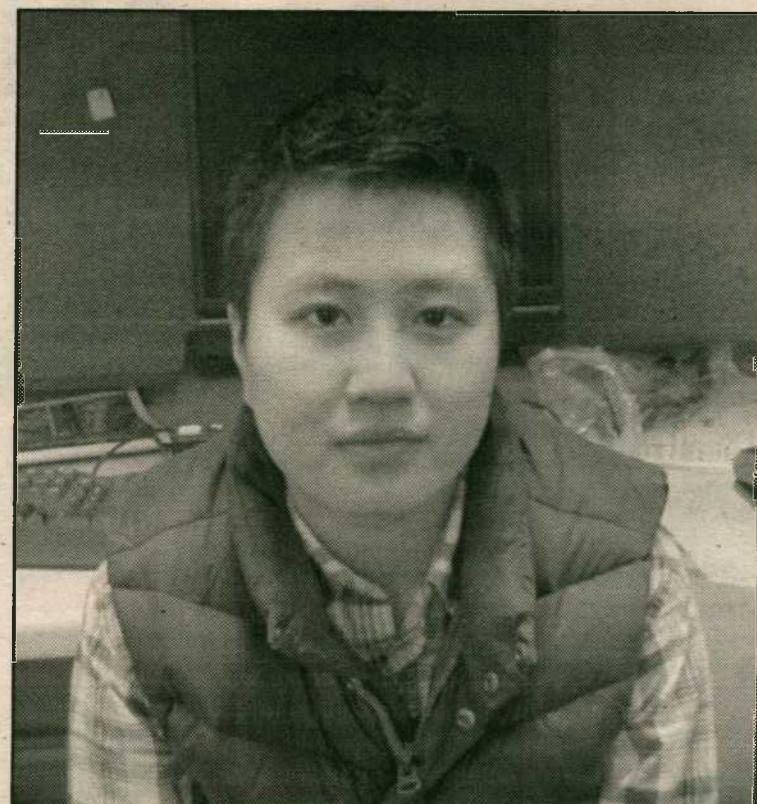


Photo Credit: Catherine Muldoon

Jessy Dangboonrueng is one of the candidates for the position of SGA Vice-President.

Elizabeth Fiorella

Candidate for SGA Vice-President

By John Rizzo

Elizabeth Fiorella's interest in student government dates back to her high school years, where she always had strong desire to fill a leadership position representing her fellow students. Fiorella made a strong point when distinguishing between high school and college student government elections. "I felt like it was more of a popularity contest in high school," said Fiorella, and she mentions that it was this that earlier deterred her

from running for student office. "In college it really depends on how hard of a worker you are."

Her student government experience began last year when she ran for secretary and lost. However, she didn't let that stop her from getting involved in student leadership by applying for membership to the Campus Activities Board. Her application was selected and Fiorella's student leadership career as Special Events Coordinator of CAB was

born.

Fiorella truly feels that the present time is, for her, "the last opportunity to do student government." She promises if elected to continue the excellent efforts previously and currently set forward by the SGA: "I want to continue [doing] just as good of a job as they are doing." She is also willing to do more for the student body than has already been done and she is very open-minded to student suggestions concerning any matters they would want to change about the college.

This year, her leadership experience has helped her to uphold other executive board roles among the various clubs in which she is involved. She is president of the school's Choral Society, secretary of the S.A.A.C. (Student Athlete Advisory Committee), and a senior member of the school's swim team. Fiorella added, "I feel like I have a lot experience, and I see how SGA runs and how things are done. I am willing to put in



Photo Credit: John Rizzo

Elizabeth Fiorella is one of the candidates for the position of SGA Vice-President.

the time to fulfill the position."

Finally, the candidate views the campaigning process as a positive experience and being elected will allow her to give back to the Brooklyn SJC campus students and faculty, as evidenced in her last remarks:

"I really do love St. Joe's and I really think that they provide us so much that I do want to give something back." She also feels she's taking more of a model, leadership role with her new VP campaign and promises to do even more so if she is elected.



Photo Credit: Gabrielle Hughes

Catherine Muldoon will be running unopposed for the position of SGA President.

Catherine Muldoon:

Candidate for SGA President

By Gabrielle Hughes

Running unopposed in this year's SGA Presidential election is junior Catherine Muldoon. Catherine is a graduate of Fontbonne Hall Academy currently studying Business Administration at SJC. Involved with several of SJC's clubs and organizations, Catherine has served as a Freshman Orientation Leader, worked as Co-Editor of Publications, and is a member of SJC's Honors program.

During her sophomore year, Catherine ran for Vice President of SGA. Although she lost, she was

assigned the role as Secretary, spending the past year in the position. During this time Catherine has made efforts to keep good relations between SGA and CAB and has initiated steps towards making SJC a smoke-free campus.

As President, Catherine hopes to carry out the act of eliminating tobacco from SJC. Catherine also wants to uphold the healthy relationship between SGA and CAB, while strengthening the bond between clubs and SGA. She anticipates future sen-

ate meetings will become more enjoyable, but maintain a sense of structure. Furthermore, Catherine wishes for student forms to be less complicated and will strive to avoid the dread that accompanies filling them out.

Because she is the sole candidate, Catherine will automatically be elected if just one vote is cast for her. Catherine notes the "anti-climatic" tone of this year's SGA Presidential race. She says, "It's nice knowing I've secured the position, but this election is definitely less suspenseful than last year's." Despite the limited assortment of presidential candidates, Catherine's numerous accomplishments through campus involvement demonstrate her potential for leading the SGA.

Tricia Gaya

Candidate for SGA Secretary

By Laura Martinez-Corona

A new semester begins and the time to vote for new candidates to be part of the SJC Student Government Association is here. New ideas, plans, and goals are brought up, and candidates arise in hopes of being elected, in an effort to accomplish their goals and help the student body of St. Joseph's College. One of the candidates that wishes to be elected with your vote is Tricia Gaya.

Tricia Gaya is running for the position of SGA Secretary for the year 2011-2012 at St. Joseph's College. "I am very proud to be a student at St. Joseph's College and feel that I would represent

the student body nicely, showing school spirit, enthusiasm, responsibility, initiative, and leadership," Tricia stated.

Tricia believes she is a good candidate for the Secretary position and feels that she can work successfully as Secretary on the Student Government Association because she loves speaking, helping, and interacting with others. "I am a friendly, outgoing person who is accepting of new ideas and willing to listen to the opinions of others. I can work well with others in a group, but I can also take initiative as a leader" she added. Her position as Coordinating Secretary on the

Executive Board of Fontbonne Hall Academy's Student Activities Council was an incredible learning experience that she believes has prepared her to take action today at St. Joseph's College and that will lead her to success in the role of Secretary.

"If elected; I will try my very best to speak on behalf of the student body, listen to their ideas, and work to incorporate them in St. Joseph's activities," she says. Tricia hopes to win this election to enact these wonderful plans for the St. Joseph's student body. Remember: you are part of this student body. Let your voice be heard and VOTE!



Photo Credit: Laura Martinez-Corona

Tricia Gaya is one of the candidates for the position of SGA Secretary.

Maria Correnti

Candidate for SGA Secretary

By Lisa Murphy

Maria Correnti, candidate for SGA Secretary, hails from Staten Island, New York. Before coming to St. Joseph's College, she attended Staten Island's Curtis High School. During her high school years she partook in numerous volunteer activities such as the New York City Marathon, the Staten Island Half Marathon, and various Breast

Cancer Walks with the goal of raising money for breast cancer research. Upon starting her college career at St. Joseph's, Maria decided that she wanted to become very involved with the school, even more than she had been in high school. So far, Maria has been an Orientation Leader, a leader for the St. Joseph's CSSJ Summer Conference, and a repre-

sentative for St. Joseph's at the National IMPACT Conference. She is also the treasurer of the Child Study Club, senate representative for Campus Ministry, and a member of the Dance Club.

Now nearing the end of her sophomore year at St. Joseph's College, Maria has decided to run for the position of SGA Secretary. She has always wanted to be an active part of student life here at St. Joseph's College and sees this as her chance to do so. She believes that she has a very strong work ethic and that she will be able to handle the duties that this position entails. She is a very dedicated and organized person, which are two qualities that a successful Secretary must boast.

If the students of St. Joseph's College elect Maria as their Secretary



Photo Credit: Lisa Murphy

Maria Correnti is a candidate for the position of SGA Secretary.

for the 2011-2012 school year, it will be her goal to make their voices heard and carry out any objectives they ask of her. Maria wants to be able to reach out and talk to the students to hear their needs, with the hopes of

ensuring a great experience for each person attending St. Joseph's College. Maria also wants to do work with the clubs, keeping them all organized and making sure that they are fun and exciting for all.



Photo Credit: Gabrielle Hughes

Kristen McMaster will be running unopposed for the position of SGA Treasurer, for which she is also the incumbent.

Kristen McMaster: Candidate for SGA Treasurer

By Gabrielle Hughes

Current SGA Treasurer Kristen McMaster hopes to maintain her position as she runs for re-election. Kristen is currently a junior, studying Business Administration, with a minor in Economics. Prior to SJC, Kristen attended Fontbonne Hall Academy, where she was a National Honor Society officer, as well as a member of the swim team for four years.

As Kristen transitioned to college, she became even more involved in student life. Among various pro-

grams, Kristen has been a member of the Gaelic Society and Student Ambassadors. Additionally, Kristen is part of SJC's honors program, has served as a Freshman Orientation Leader, and was Co-Editor of Publications. The swim team was created during her freshman year and Kristen has been an active participant throughout college, achieving status as a team captain.

Kristen exhibited further leadership during her sophomore year, as she was elected Treasurer of the Student

Athletic Advisory Council. During her junior year, Kristen was elected Treasurer of the Student Government Association. Having spent the past year as Treasurer, Kristen has been able to familiarize herself with the duties that accompany the job. She feels as though she can communicate on the same level as her peers in regards to student accounts, something that past Treasurers had trouble with.

By obtaining re-election, Kristen wants to uphold the strong relationships she shares with fellow students. As someone that has "yet to receive a complaint," Kristen expresses great interest in keeping her role as Treasurer, noting that the position fulfills a great portion of her college experience.

Op-Ed: What's Wrong With the SGA?

Some common
sense suggestions to
better our college.

By Robert Jurman

We constantly hear politicians on both sides always saying that they'll change things and that they'll make things better, though often these promises go unfulfilled and are only used to win elections. In college politics, these tactics can also be used and many people run because they want popularity, authority or to be seen as "cool". Often times this is the reason for college government failure. Now, I'd like to make it clear that I am pointing to no one specifically in this article and that this article is made as a general observation of our SGA; however we must not be too prudent as to not acknowledge and address the fact that the SGA can do a better job, should do a better job, and must do a better job. With elections coming up I believe that it is important that you, the reader and voter, is fully informed and is aware of what needs to be done here at SJC. Here are some Common Sense proposals that would drastically improve SJC.

First off, we need improvements in St. Angela Hall. As a college in the 21st Century, it is imperative that we upgrade St. Angela Hall and get WiFi as well as better access to 3G and 4G networks in the building. Because there are no WiFi, 3G, or 4G connections, students are unable to connect to the internet on laptops and the slow connection creates a problem in the classroom when the professor is using the computer and projector. Also, restoration of the classrooms and bathrooms are necessary due to the paint chips, watermarks and old equipment. Also, more money needs to be worked into the budget to expand our small and constricted stu-



Photo Credit: Lisa Murphy

The SGA Senate deliberates and debates the issues affecting St. Joseph's College.

dent parking lot. (Editor's Note: The issue of parking lot expansion, of course, is not simply one of money, but of zoning.)

Secondly, the rules that the SGA impose on our clubs are unfair and unnecessary. A club needs to submit detailed journals of the meetings, must submit schedules, and must request to use money from their own budget in certain circumstances, as well as have their constitutions be approved or denied by the SGA. The SGA has no place to vote on constitutions, since they are not in the respective club. We need to pass a reform bill, giving more power and independence to our clubs. With a good reform bill, the clubs as well as the SGA would run more smoothly and SGA meetings that are

focused solely on clubs to submit reports will no longer be necessary, which will allow other important matters to be debated and resolved.

Thirdly, we need to help students who are short on money get books. To do this, we need to improve the way books are sold in the bookstore. We need to make all books available for rent as another option other than simply for sale. A rented book will cost much less. We also need to give the student the option to sell back any book they bought at the bookstore after each semester. This would give yet another option to students. Also, the lower prices for renting would create more revenue for the school, because more students would be getting their books from the College and not on

the Internet. Finally, we need to find a way for the bookstore to run more efficiently and to ensure the employees are promptly opening the store according to its posted hours.

In these upcoming elections, think of the things I have mentioned. We can say that these are common sense and basic issues that must be addressed. However, the SGA has failed to address any of these points. As far as I have observed, all the SGA has done has been to be overly invasive of our clubs and gather in a room to deliberate, just to hear one another talk without resolving anything useful while putting each other on the back for their positions of 'power', forgetting where their power derived from and what they are there for. Think about

it: ever since you were a student at SJC, has anything changed because of the SGA? Are you better off now than you were since you came here or since the last election? The answer is most likely no. This is ridiculous and appalling. Most likely it is because we vote for people for the wrong reasons and the people who are elected do not have the resolve or desires to make a real change. So don't vote based on your friendships, vote on how you believe a candidate will act and change things. Don't just vote for the incumbent either, vote for a new voice of hope, a firm leader who will be strong on the issues and have the capabilities to make a real change. Let's reclaim our SGA. Get out the vote!

From the Desk of the President

SGA Elections/Upcoming Student Government Applications and Deadlines

By Nina Zito

In the coming weeks SGA Elections for the 2011-2012 school year will be in full swing. Campaign posters and flyers will soon consume the hallways and staircases of St. Joseph's College. Whose campaign was the most creative? Which candidate's position paper will you be most impressed with? Who deserves to win? These are the questions you should be asking yourself before you vote. You have the power to choose the future leaders of SGA.

There will be a public forum on Monday, March 7th during common hour for all candidates running for SGA positions. Before casting your vote, I strongly encourage you to attend this forum and meet the candidates. Each candidate will offer his or her own unique ideas and opinions at the forum. Every vote counts so please

remember to vote on March 7th and March 8th.

When I decided to run for SGA President last year, I was anxious and excited. Representing the student body of St. Joseph's College is a prestigious honor and a huge responsibility. Campaigning was an exciting adventure. I was able to meet new faces and network with students around campus. In the next few weeks, feel free to ask candidates about their ideas for the future of SGA.

Please take the time to vote in the upcoming election since you have the power to choose the future leaders of SGA. If you have any questions about the candidates or the election process, feel free to stop by the Student Life Suite. It's not everyday YOU can make a difference.

Until next time, I hope all of you

have a relaxing and safe Spring Break!

UPCOMING STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

Parliamentarian:
Application Available March 21st
Applications Due March 25th

CAB Program Director:
Application Available March 21st
Applications Due April 1st at 4pm

Other CAB Positions:
Application Available March 28th
Applications Due April 8th

Class Representatives:
Applications Available April 4th
Applications Due April 15

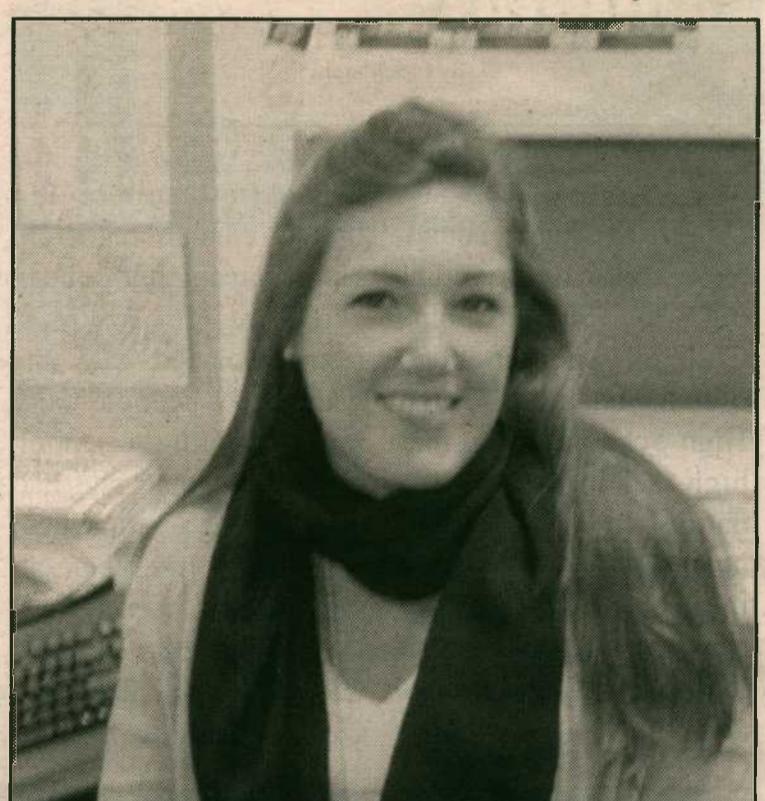


Photo Credit: Lisa Murphy

SGA President Nina Zito checks in with what's happening in and around your student government.

Op-Ed: In Opposition of the Unopposed

By Mike Panico

We see it all too much in elections these days: people running unopposed. We see it a lot in school elections, and sometimes we even see it in different local races. In American society, many feel that this is a bad thing. Only one person running for a position of office could be considered bad, as we will only have one choice for that position, regardless of whether or not we believe in what they say. They will have

their own agenda, and not care about what the people want or say, as we see too often in politics today. But in an SGA election, this can be a different story.

Obviously, Student Government Association elections at St. Joseph's College cannot totally be compared to a local or federal government election, but there are some similarities. If someone runs unopposed, we really have no way to determine if they will do a good job. We pretty much have no choice. But if someone runs against them, at least we can

bring out the best in candidates. If someone runs unopposed, then they will think they can sail through everything, knowing that there is no one to oppose anything that they are doing. Also, if that person is not living up to the expectations of that position, then it may be harder to get them out of their position.

But on the other hand, if someone goes unopposed, they may actually be able to get the job done. If someone is running for a position and there is no problem with their motivation, and they feel that they

can go do the job and WANT to do the job, then more power to them. If the position of President was unopposed, I was seriously thinking about running, just to be able to try and bring out the best in my opponent and myself and maybe to even win. When I reflected upon it, I realized that not only would I be a long shot to win, I would not be able to put in all the time and effort needed to be president. So if someone is willing to put the time and effort in, then there really is no problem with them running unopposed. But then there can be no

complaining about that fact, since everyone else had the opportunity to go out and run and chose not to.

I hope whomever runs unopposed is able to do the best job they can do. Someone who is just handed the job may have a mentality in which they believe they can do anything, and do not have to worry since no one will challenge them. That in and of itself should be motivation to go out and prove that even though they did not have a challenge in the election, they still are the best person for the job at hand.